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Minutes of the **Ordinary** meeting of **Blisworth Parish Council** held in Blisworth Village Hall on **Monday 3rd April 2023 at 7:30 pm.**

Present: Cllr Billing, Chair

Cllr C Read MBE, Vice-Chair

Cllr D Wilson Cllr B Brown Cllr M Field

Also present: Clerk: Angela Billing

3 Members of public

		Action
1.	To receive apologies. Apologies received from Cllr Gardner, Cllr J Hawkins and District Councillor Cooper. The Council resolved to accept the apologies.	
2.	To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda. Councillors are reminded that if they have either a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or other interest in any of the agenda items then they should declare the interest and withdraw from the debate or meeting as appropriate. None received.	
3.	To receive and approve for signature, the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 6th March 2023. Approved.	
4.	To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on the agenda for report only. None noted.	
5.	Clerk's report circulated separately. Noted.	
6.	Review and agree plan for Civility and Respect Policy and Training. Agreed for all Councillors and Clerk to attend online training and to sign up to the Civility and Respect pledge.	All Councillors and Clerk
7.	 Public Session: a. District Councillor Report. Circulated separately. b. Members of the public. (i) A member of the public asked about the situation regarding the recent closure of Courteenhall Road and when it would re-open. (ii) A representative from Blisworth Football Club shared plans and proposed costings for the Football Clubhouse renovations and asked if Blisworth Parish Council were in a position to provide some financial support towards the cost of the renovations. (iii) A representative from Blisworth Baptist Church shared the success of the Welcoming and Warm Room sessions at the Baptist Church and thanked the Blisworth Councillors and District Councillor for their support and volunteering to help run the sessions. It is hopeful that the initiative will be repeated next winter if required. 	
8.	 Response to issues raised in the public session. a) Councillor Cooper's report noted concerns relating to the subsidence occurring on Stoke Road, Blisworth. Resolved that the Clerk is to contact Highways again and Cllr Cooper to determine what information we can pass onto residents regarding the safety of the road and the proposed dates for works. Clerk to also highlight again to Highways the impact on Stoke Road due to the closure of Courteenhall Road 	Clerk

			H PARISH COUNCIL			
particularly with regard to the increasing volume of traffic and the increasing						
	number of vehicles that contravene the 3-tonne weight-limit along Stoke Road. In					
	order to mitigate further damage to the road, Clerk to request that Highways install temporary 3-tonne weight-limit signage as soon as possible at the Stoke					
	Road/Knock Lane junction, Stoke Road/Shutlanger Road junction (outside of Stoke Bruerne village) and on the Blisworth Road/Stoke Road and Hyde Road (Roade)					
	junction as there is no wa	arning early on fro	m that direction and trucks turning fro	om		
	Roade onto the Blisworth	Road/Knock Lane	e will have trouble turning around whe	n		
	they reach Stoke Road.					
b)	(i) The Council has been	informed that Cou	urteenhall Road will possibly remain			
	closed until mid-April 202	23.			Clerk	
	(ii) While the Council wor	uld like to support	the Football Club financially, recognisi	ing		
	its value to the local com	munity, unfortuna	ately there is a great demand on the			
	Council's available funds	for traffic calming	initiatives. It was proposed that the			
		_	n in support of the Football Club's			
			n. The Football Club to resubmit their			
	request in the light of fee					
			Baptist Church team and volunteers fo	r		
			oom sessions and for providing free us			
	of their facilities for the E	-	-			
Pla	anning and Development.		<u> </u>			
	Application &	Location	Description			
	Date Comments Due		·			
-	WNS/2023/0270/FUL	Ancillary	Change of use of general-purpose			
	-,,, -	Building (The	storage building to holiday let, first			
		Shed)	floor extension to create habitable			
		Blisworth Arm	space.			
		Blisworth NN7	opass.			
		3EF				
-	Clerk to submit a comme		orth Parish Council's concern			
		~	p parked cars and the proposed			
			ous with the surrounding buildings in		Clerk	
	the Conservation Area.	it being incongrac	with the surrounding buildings in			
L	the conservation, wear					
Cc	prrespondence from social	media: Undate fro	om Cllr Read. The total number of			
	•	•	people (69.8% of our followers are liste	h		
	-					
	as women and 101 are listed as resident in Blisworth, the remainder listed in Northampton/Roade/Towcester). We have had a post reach of 3776 people (people					
who have our messages on their social media feeds) and a direct engagement (clicks) of						
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	speed recorded was 66 mph. VAS unit in Courteenhall Road: In the period between 5 Mar and 20 Mar (16 days) there were 53,339 vehicle movements (3,333 per day) with an average speed of 33.3mph and 85% of vehicles were travelling below 41 mph. This means that approximately 500 vehicles daily speed down Courteenhall Road adjacent residential properties. The top speed recorded was 88 mph. The batteries on both VAS units ran out 20 and 21 March respectively after which the Courteenhall Road was closed. The batteries on both machines were replaced 1 April so we will be able to track the changes in movements over the forthcoming period and highlight the impact	Cllr Read
13.	Gateway Update. Update from Cllr Wilson. Cllr Wilson to attend quarterly meeting on 04/04/2023. Cllr Brown requested Cllr Wilson to raise the following issues: 1. Highlight to SEGRO and West Northants Council (WNC) representatives, the current impact of the SEGRO development on the local roads and the fact that the proposed S106 payment will not be sufficient to meet the repair costs of the ongoing degradation of the local roads and the health and wellbeing of the local residents. 2. To ask for advance warning about road closures, including advance warning signage to notify drivers of forthcoming road closures so that they can plan alternative routes. 3. In light of the increasing volume of HGV traffic through the village and particularly along the subsidence area in Stoke Road, Blisworth to ask SEGRO, WNC representatives and Highways to work together to display temporary advisory signage to deter vehicles over 3 tonnes accessing Stoke Road. 4. As part of a more permanent resolution, future signage should reflect that the roads are not suitable for HGV traffic and are for local access only.	Cllr Wilson
14.	Resolve to agree option for printing Round and About BPC newsletter. Resolved to	Clerk
	obtain further quotes. Cllr Field to pursue further contacts and pass onto Clerk.	Cllr Field
15.	Discuss options regarding grit bins and purchase of further grit and agree next steps. Resolved to purchase further grit. Clerk to obtain quotes for a smaller grit bin for Westbrook alley.	Cllr Read Clerk
16.	Review and agree Website Accessibility Policy. Agreed.	Clerk
17.	Discuss request for an S137 grant from Blisworth Baptist Church for £450.00 towards costs for stocking the Leisure Hall. Deferred. Resolved that the Finance Working Group should review the S137 Grant Policy and application form.	Finance Working Group
18.	 Village Maintenance & Open Spaces: a. Play area: Monthly safety inspection report: Update from Cllr Wilson. Monthly check was undertaken and no significant issues were identified. A small movement in the 2 x benches bolted to their concrete bases (these movements were reported many months ago) but movement is very slight still. Cllr Read agreed to adjust the bolts. b. Defibrillator: Confirmation of satisfactory checks and any issues. Update from Cllr Read. Monthly check was undertaken and no issues were identified. c. Allotments: Review quotes for fencing. Update from Cllr Billing. Resolved to appoint Broadstone Developments to install fencing and gates at the allotments in line with the Lottery Grant. Review Allotment Tenancy Agreement and pricing for plots. Resolved to amend the Tenancy Agreement to include note that tenants will no longer be allowed to keep animals on their plots. Current owners of animals to be informed that they cannot replace stock and that it is their responsibility to be aware of and abide by all legislation relating to the welfare, husbandry and possession of animals on allotments. Resolved to increase the rent per plot per year by £1.00 to £6.00 per plot in order to ensure that the allotment rents cover Blisworth Parish Council's share of the annual water bill. Resolved that the 	Cllr Read Clerk

19.	rent from Blisworth Football Club will not be increased by way of supporting the Football Club. d. Closed Cemetery. Update from Cllr Billing. Cllr Billing to obtain further quotes to level the area near the steps (Pond Bank exit) at the Closed Cemetery. Internal Control: a) Financial & Management Risk Assessment:	Clerk
	 To receive declarations of gifts/hospitality and review record of gifts/hospitality received by Councillors or the Clerk to date. None received. 	
20.	Finance & Administration Banking Issues: a. Bank reconciliation to 03/04/2023. £66,590.39 b. Discuss and agree next steps for proposed allocation of Reserve funds. Resolved to agree the draft proposal for allocation of reserve funds subject to consultation with residents in May 2023. c. Bank Mandates for NatWest accounts. Cllr B Brown and Cllr W Root are now signatories for the NatWest accounts. d. Skipton Savings Account. Skipton requested a copy of the agreed, signed, final March minutes ahead of opening an account. e. To note receipts and approve the following payments and any others that arrive after publication of the agenda: Following receipts received after publication of the agenda: Football Club's share of 2022-2023 Water Bill received: £609.60 WNC Grass Mowing Grant received: £771.88 Allotment Rent received: £5.00 Resolved to approve the following payments which arrived after publication of the agenda: CutCrew Ltd: £797.18 Gross, £132.86 VAT, £664.32 Net of VAT Northants CALC Ltd: £1,004.94 Gross, £53.20 VAT, £951.74 Net of VAT.	Clerk

RECEIPTS					
Date	Payee	Detail	Amount		
24/02/2023	NatWest	Lottery Allotment Fencing Grant	£8603.00*		
28/02/2023	NatWest	Interest	£26.93*		
			*BR Account		
20/03/2023	NatWest	Water Bill 1st Blisworth Scout	£304.80**		
27/03/2023	NatWest	Water Bill Football Club	£609.60**		
31/03/2023	NatWest	WNC Grass Mowing Grant	£771.88**		
03/04/2023	NatWest	Allotment Fee	£5.00**		
			**Current Account		

PAYMENTS						
Invoice	PAYEE	PURPOSE	CHQ /DD	Total Amount Including VAT	VAT	Amount Excluding VAT
		Electricity Supply				
February 2023/0021	SSE	02.02.2023 - 01.03.2023	DD	£96.97	£4.61	£92.36
		Barbara Osborne Business Services Payroll Services Jan 2023 - Mar				
7317	B J Osborne	2023	3211	£67.50	£0.00	£67.50
Month 12	A Billing - Salary	Clerk's Salary March 2023	3212	£783.50	£0.00	£783.50
120PF003233662312	HMRC - Nat. Ins.	HMRC Nat. Ins. Employer Contributions March 2023 Salary	3213	£3.52	£0.00	£3.52
120FF003233002312	HIVING - Nat. IIIS.	Clerk's Expenses	3213	15.52	10.00	15.52
		February 2023 (01.03.2023 -				
	A Billing - Expenses	31.03.2023)	3214	£26.85	£0.00	£26.85
	IONOS	Website Fee - April	DD	£6.00	£0.00	£6.00
	Waves	Water Supply - April	DD	£55.00	£0.00	£55.00
28026	Merland Copy & Print shop	Printing of Round & About April-May Issue	3215	£170.00	£0.00	£170.00
1489	CutCrew Ltd	Cut to: Area 2 x 2 & Area 1 x 2 April 2023	3216	797.18	132.86	664.32
		NCALC Subscription YE 2024 NCALC Membership Based on Electorate YE2024 & NALC Membership Based on Electorate YE2024 & Data				
2772*	Northants CALC Ltd	Protection Officer Fee	3217	1,004.94	53.20	951.74
*Where Invoice/Receipt rece	eived after agenda was publis	hed.	Totals	£3,011.46	£191.67	£2,819.79

21.	Footpath (Stoke Road to Blisworth Tunnel Carpark): Resolve to agree to submit a request to KIER	Clerk
	(Highways) to install a footpath on the canal side of Stoke Road to the tunnel carpark, as part of their	
	works on Stoke Road. Agreed.	
22.	 Annual Parish Meeting (of Blisworth village residents): Resolve to agree the date as Monday, 22nd May 2023. Discuss agenda and agree next steps. Resolved to agree the date of the Annual Parish Meeting (of Blisworth village residents) as Monday, 22nd May 2023. Resolved that Councillors will prepare information for the public to indicate their opinions around the following projects: Chicane in Stoke Road to calm traffic Traffic-light operated pedestrian crossing on High Street (in addition to the School Crossing Patrol Officer). Improvements to pavements/footways Speeding Sign applications (including 20mph near the school, and 40 mph guidance signage beyond the 30 mph village boundaries) Increased weight-limit guidance signage Friendship bench Char.gy electric car charging points 	All Councill ors

	Blisworth Baptist Church volunteered their facilities for the Annual Parish Meeting (of Blisworth village residents) on Monday, 22nd May 2023.	
23.	Councillors' reports and items for future agenda. Cllr Read: Char.gy electric car recharging points option to be added to May agenda. Cllr Wilson and Cllr Brown: Review Royal Oak application with West Northants Council as a Community Asset.	Clerk
24.	Council Surgery – Resolve to agree on a representative(s) from the Council for 11th April 2023. Resolved that Cllr Wilson will attend on Tuesday, 11th April 2023.	Cllr Wilson
25.	To agree the date of next meeting Tuesday, 2nd May 2023 at 7.30pm. Agreed	
26.	Close. The meeting closed at 10:02 pm.	

Signed:	
Chairman	Date:

Please see the clerk for a copy of the signed minutes.

Please note Minute Point 20 (e): Note change to Payments: NCALC issued incorrect invoice for £1,004.94 Gross.

New invoice received from NCALC (after the 03/04/2023 Meeting) for £997.82 Gross, £53.20 VAT, £944.62 Net of VAT. Note change to Bank reconciliation: £67,595.33 (as incorrect cheque was not issued). Correct version of NCALC invoice authorised at Blisworth Parish Council Meeting on 02/05/2023.

Noted on Minutes of Blisworth Parish Council Meeting on 02/05/2023.